

Applicants: Long Sheng Yu, et al.
U.S. Serial No.: 10/799,534
Filed: March 12, 2004
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REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-6, 8-10, 12, and 14-17 are pending in the subject application. By this Amendment, applicants have amended claim 1 herein. Support for the amendments to claim 1 is found in the specification, *inter alia*, on page 7, lines 16-23, and in Fig. 1.

No issue of new matter is raised by these amendments. Accordingly, upon entry of this Amendment, claims 1, 3-6, 8-10, 12, and 14-17 will be pending and under examination in the subject application.

In view of the preceding claim amendments and the remarks which follow, applicants maintain that the grounds of rejections set forth in the April 12, 2011 Office Action have been overcome, and respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw these grounds of rejection.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 3, 5, 9, and 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly anticipated by Jassawalla et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,001,056, "Jassawalla"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

The Examiner asserted that Jassawalla discloses a "...gripping member (stitch(es)) 196 and 194, depicted in figure 5." (Office Action, p. 2). Further, the Examiner asserted that "[t]he gripping member (stitch 196) engage with the extended inflow tube and are coupled to the exterior surface of the tube (see figure 5)." (Office Action, p. 2).

Contrary to the Examiner's assertion, among other things, Jassawalla makes no mention of "...a gripping member having an opening configured to receive said extended inflow tube...", as recited in applicants' amended independent claim 1. Rather, Jassawalla discloses "...the sewing ring 166 attaches to the reinforcement cage 164 using stitches 196." (Jassawalla, col. 8, lines 46-48). The stitches 196, of Jassawalla, are not the gripping member as claimed. The stitches do not receive anything. The stitches are merely secured to both the sewing ring and the reinforcement cage at predetermined locations to attach the sewing ring to the reinforcement cage. Further, the stitches do not have an opening as recited in applicants' amended independent claim 1. Rather, the stitches are merely short pieces of thread-like material that are secured at one end to the sewing ring and at the other end to the reinforcement cage. Thus, Jassawalla does not disclose or suggest "...a gripping member having an opening configured to receive said extended inflow tube...", as recited in applicants' amended independent claim 1.

For at least this reason, applicants respectfully submit that Jassawalla does not disclose or suggest each and every element recited in amended independent claim 1. Accordingly, applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claims 1, 3, 5, 9, and 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 is overcome and should be withdrawn. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner rejected claims 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, and 15-17 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Jassawalla. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Regarding independent claim 1, as described above, Jassawalla makes no mention of "...a gripping member having an opening configured to receive said extended inflow tube...", as recited in applicants' amended independent claim 1. For at least this reason, applicants respectfully submit that Jassawalla does not render amended independent claim 1, and by extension all other claims which are dependent thereupon, including claims 4, 6, 8, 10, and 15-17, obvious to one skilled in the art.

Regarding independent claim 12, applicants' claim 12 recites "...a coupling having gripping pads configured to attach said coupling to the adapter sleeve..." Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner fails to acknowledge certain limitations recited in independent claim 12. Specifically, Jassawalla does not disclose or suggest "...a coupling..." or "...gripping pads configured to attach said coupling to the adapter sleeve...", as recited in applicants' independent claim 12. The stitches of Jassawalla, referenced by the Examiner, are not the coupling or the gripping pads as claimed. As described above, the stitches are merely short pieces of thread-like material that are secured at one end to the sewing ring and at the other end to the reinforcement cage. In fact, Jassawalla makes no mention of the coupling or the gripping pads as claimed.

Since applicants' claimed invention is not found in the cited reference or suggested anywhere within the art, it appears that in creating this obviousness rejection the Examiner gleaned knowledge from applicants' disclosure contrary to *KSR*, which states "[a] factfinder should be aware, of course, of the distortion caused by hindsight bias and must be cautious of arguments reliant upon *ex post* reasoning." *KSR Int'l Co. v. Teleflex Inc.*, 550 U.S. 398, 421 (2007). Applicants respectfully request that the rejected

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claims be reconsidered in light of well-established legal principles.

In any event, applicants submit that the disclosure of Jassawalla does not arrive at applicants' claimed invention. For at least these reasons, applicants respectfully submit that Jassawalla does not render independent claims 1 and 12, and by extension all other claims which are dependent thereupon, obvious to one skilled in the art. Accordingly, applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claims 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, and 15-17 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 is overcome and should be withdrawn. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

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CONCLUSION

A sincere effort has been made to distinguish the invention from the prior art reference. In view of the preceding amendments and remarks, the Examiner is urged to withdraw the rejection of the claims and to pass the application to allowance at an early date.

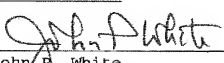
If a telephone interview would be of assistance in advancing prosecution of the subject application, applicants' undersigned attorney invites the Examiner to telephone him at the number provided below.

No fee, is deemed necessary in connection with the filing of this Amendment. However, if any fee is required, authorization is hereby given to charge the amount of any such fee to Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

Respectfully submitted,



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| <p>Certificate of Transmission</p> <p>I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted via the Electronic Filing System (EFS) to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on June 21, 2011.</p>  <p>John P. White Reg. No. 28,678</p> |
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